

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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DRAFTED BY EA/ VN: RIROSENBERG: AOA

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APPROVED BY EA/ VN: L. B. ASKEW

DOD/ ISA- COL. BROWDER(SUBS.)

----- 092629

P R 171653 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO DOD

DAO PAO SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: U. S. STATEMENTS ON BOMBING IN VIET- NAM

REFS: A. LONDON 5711 B. SAIGON 8686

1. FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT STATEMENTS BY DOD SPOKESMAN
FRIEDHEIM MAY 14. (THIS IS NOT A VERBATIM TEXT BUT IS
AUTHORITATIVE.)

2. Q: DID YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO THIS VIETNAM BOMB-
ING?

A: NO, I THINK THE EMBASSY, CINCPAC AND WE RESPONDED
OVER THE WEEKEND. DR. KISSINGER RESPONDED IN HIS PRESS
CONFERENCE OVER THERE. WE' RE NOT CONDUCTING ANY AIR
COMBAT OPERATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

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Q: WE RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ACCIDENTAL INCIDENT OF SOME KIND?

A: I HAVE NO INDICATIONS AT ALL OF ANY SORT OF AN INCIDENT.

Q: COULD THIS BE AS A RESULT OF SOME SORT OF BORDER DISPUTE OR UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE BORDER?

A: I WOULDN'T LIKE TO TRY TO ACCOUNT FOR THE OTHER SIDE'S ALLEGATION. IT OCCURS TO ME THAT SOME MEETINGS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN IN PARIS. THAT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE OTHER SIDES PROPAGANDA BUT OUR ACTIVITIES ARE NOT INSIDE SOUTH VIETNAM. WE'VE HAD SOME EXPERIENCE OVER THE YEARS IN DEALING WITH THAT PARTICULAR BORDER, AS YOU KNOW. WE KNOW WHERE IT IS.

Q: BUT THERE'S ALSO LONG BEEN A DISPUTE OVER THERE, IT IS BETWEEN SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND THE CAMBODIANS.

A: THERE'RE PEOPLE WHO DISPUTE WHETHER THREE MILES SHOULD BE A 200- MILE LIMIT, THOSE SORTS OF THINGS TOO. THE CAMBODIAN BORDER IS WELL KNOWN TO US AND OUR ACTIVITIES ARE NOT INSIDE SOUTH VIETNAM.

Q: YOU HIT THE FRENCH EMBASSY TOO IN HANOI AND YOU STILL SAY THERE'S NOT A POSSIBILITY OF ACCIDENTAL BOMBING.

A: I WOULD NEVER TELL YOU HERE THAT THERE IS NOT A POSSIBILITY OF HUMAN BEING MAKING ACCIDENTS. THERE IS NO INDICATION AT ALL AVAILABLE TODAY THAT IT INDICATES ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT OUR POLICIES ARE BEING ADHERED TO RATHER SCRUPULOUSLY BY THE AIR FORCE PILOTS INVOLVED. RUSH

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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